

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-30, 32, and 33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 31 have been cancelled. Claims 32 and 33 are new. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-17, 24, 32, and 33 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14-30.¹

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,804,267 to Long et al.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 31 have been canceled above without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Applicants reserve the right to present these claims in a divisional application.

In view of the foregoing, the § 102 rejection has been rendered moot.

New Claims

Independent claims 32 and 33 are new. It is respectfully submitted that the filing of these claims does not add any new matter to the application. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 32 and 33 recite a combination of elements that are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art cited in this application.

¹ See Office Action of 10/18/2006 at page 3, 1st paragraph. However, please note that the Office Action Summary contains a typographical error listing these claims as being rejected.

Conclusion

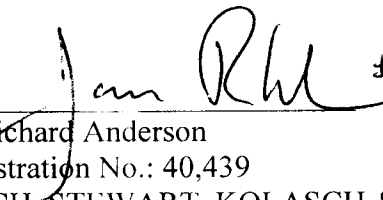
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections, and issue a Notice of Allowance in this application.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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